

Ticket Stubs (A Rock Fan Looks Back at the 70s)

J.A. Mock



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This book is about growing up with rock and roll in the 1970s. The souvenirs, ticket stubs and pictures from nearly 40 concerts I attended during that turbulent decade can be seen at www.caljam.net. This is a story that has never been told from a fan's point of view.

There are hundreds of books out there written by established rock critics but I've never read one by the average fan who had to wait in line to buy tickets. I've never read about the excitement of meeting a favorite rock star by chance or the thrill of scoring killer seats to a sold-out show. While most rock books are written from a backstage perspective, mine comes from being in front of the stage. This is where I saw The Kinks, The Who and the Rolling Stones before I turned 16. This is where I grew-up, attending over 100 concerts before I turned twenty. Many of them were bizarre bills with bands that musically had nothing to do with each other. How about seeing Yes, Edgar Winter and The Eagles at the same show?

I have been writing about rock and roll since high school. I graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 1979 and joined a band immediately after. Since then I've written for newspapers in Santa Barbara (the old News and Review, the Independent and the News-Press) to the Los Angeles Times and Daily Breeze. I've also worked for such groups as The Beach Boys and Toad The Wet Sprocket. Although I've also been a sports reporter - covering the Green Bay Packers in 1992 was a personal highlight - rock and roll has always been my calling. Every time I tell my friends a rock story they say "you should write a book."

That's exactly what I did. It should appeal to baby-boomers who saw many of the same artists in concert. Back when tickets were \$5.00 and the touring business was just coming of age. Back when everyone played their own instruments and sang their own songs. Back when rock and roll was more than just music. To kids like me, rock and roll was everything. That's the spirit I've tried to capture in Ticket Stubs.

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